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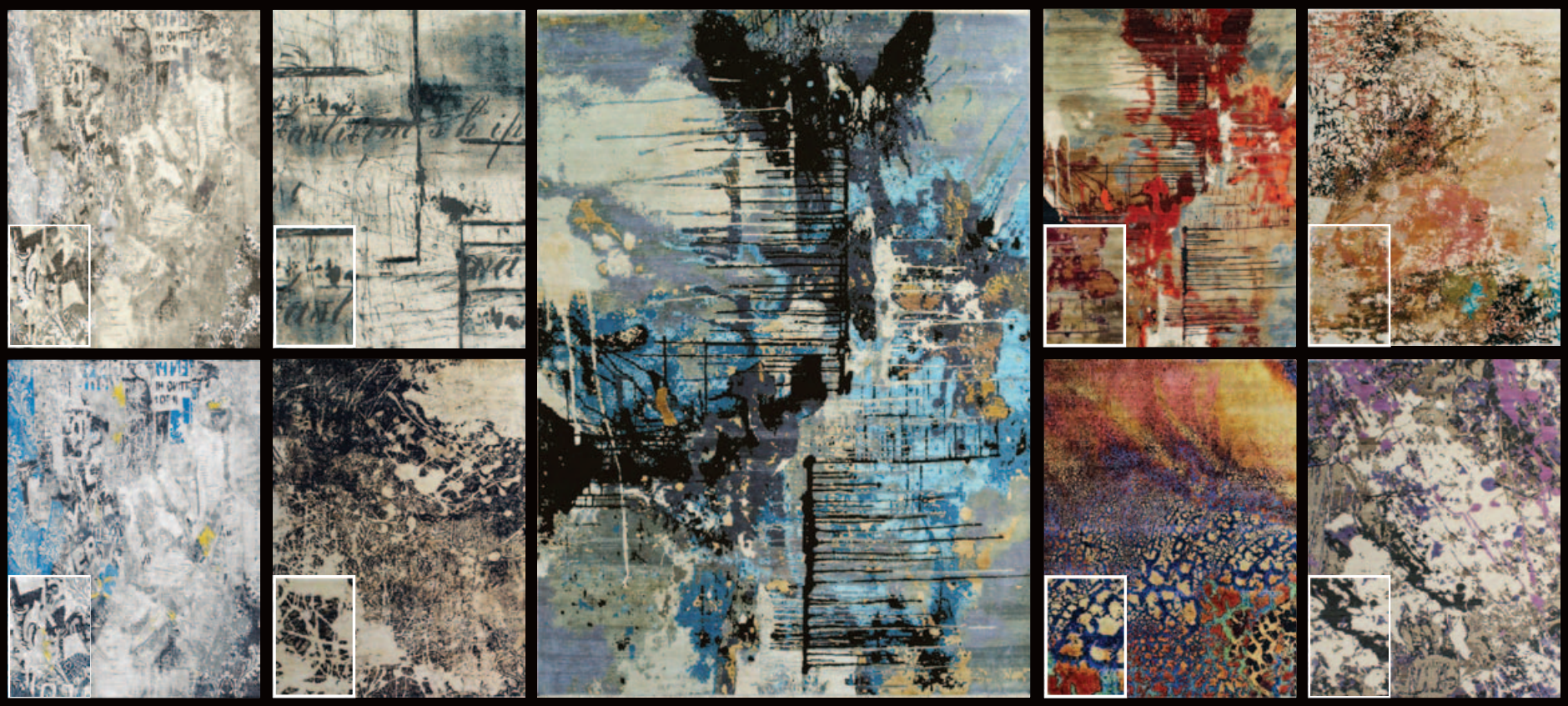

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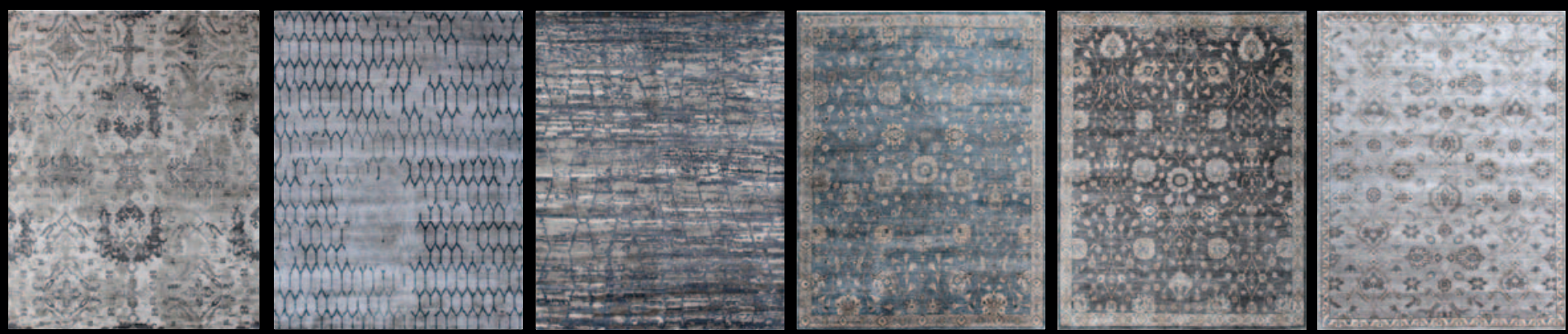

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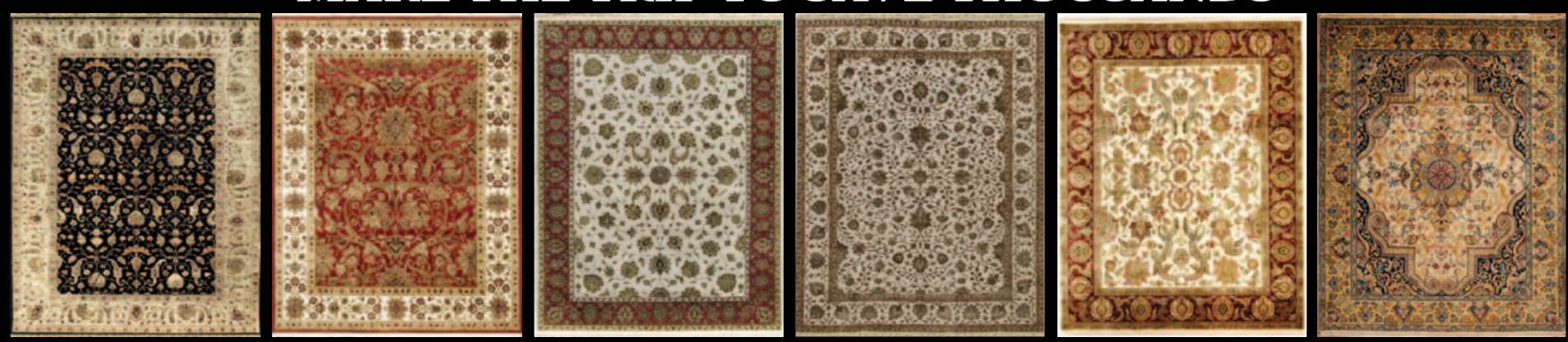

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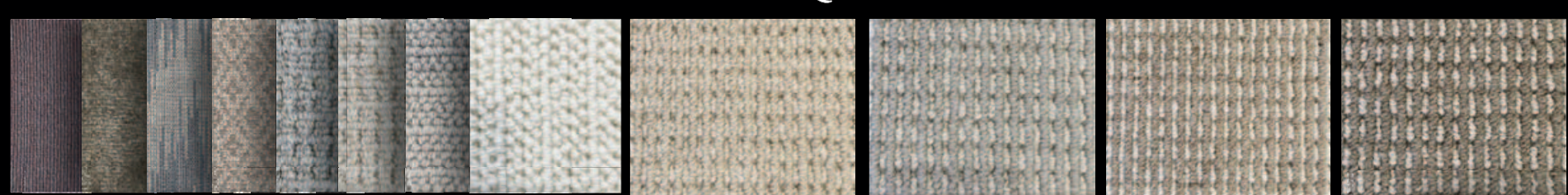

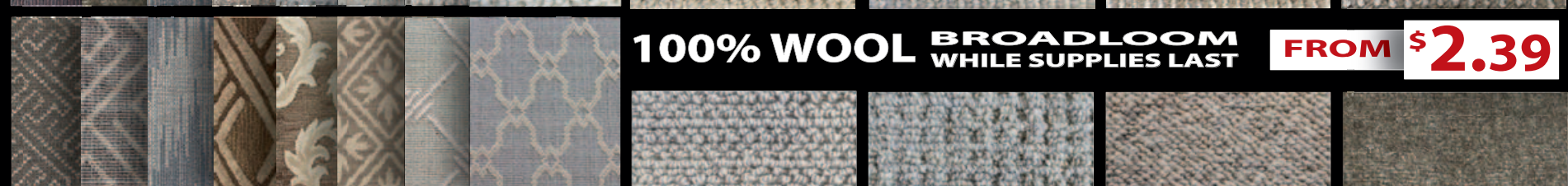

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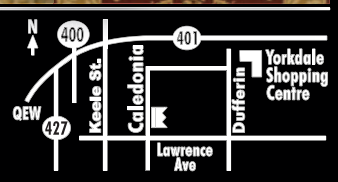

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styleathome OCTOBER 2015

A patterned toss cushion plays up this armchair's woven texture.

HOMES

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An unremarkable '80s build transforms into a comfortable family home

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DECORATING

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TABLET EDITION
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ON THE COVER
A wooden table set with pumpkins, gourds and berries celebrates fall's fruitful bounty

PHOTOGRAPHY
Donna Griffith

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happy PLACES

There's a joke about how horse owners are happier scrubbing out water buckets than we are cleaning our floors at home. And how we're more fastidious about having our horse's blankets cleaned and repaired than dry cleaning our own winter coats. It's all true. I'm meticulous about having everything "horsey" in its place at the barn, yet I'm hopeless about putting anything away at home. And since Fleur began competing internationally this past summer, I've spent more weekends on the road with her, meaning less time to keep up with even the bare essentials at home.

But with the onset of autumn that will change, and in many ways I'm glad. It will be nice to cook in my own kitchen, sleep in my own bed and maybe even throw a dinner party or two. I'll fill the kitchen with the delicious aroma of baked bread, calling to mind the Parisian *boulangerie* in this issue (see "French Kiss," page 56). I'll sort out some quirky mementoes and display them like designer Lidia van Zyl does in her house (see "Curious & Curiouser," page 94). I'll fill jugs and vases with armloads of branches and tall grasses, creating a rustic atmosphere reminiscent of stylist Terry Schacht's cottage (see "Comforts of Home," page 100). I might even spray-paint those vases myself (just like in our High or Low column on page 46). It's the season to get cozy, and as much as Fleur deserves some downtime in her (very clean and organized) barn after her busy summer, I do, too.

Erin

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THERE'S NOTHING BETTER than collaborating with talented people. Working with design editor Stacy Begg (left) on our IKEA kitchen project for the 2015 Interior Design Show in Toronto was a delight. Stacy has the enviable ability to design a kitchen that is as stylish as it is functional. Her ideas are ingenious – witness the results in our "French Kiss" story on page 56. Now I'm craving hits of glamorous brass in my kitchen, too!

PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL (PORTRAIT); DONNA GRIFFITH (KITCHEN); BREECHES, STRUCK APPAREL; SCARF, HERMÈS

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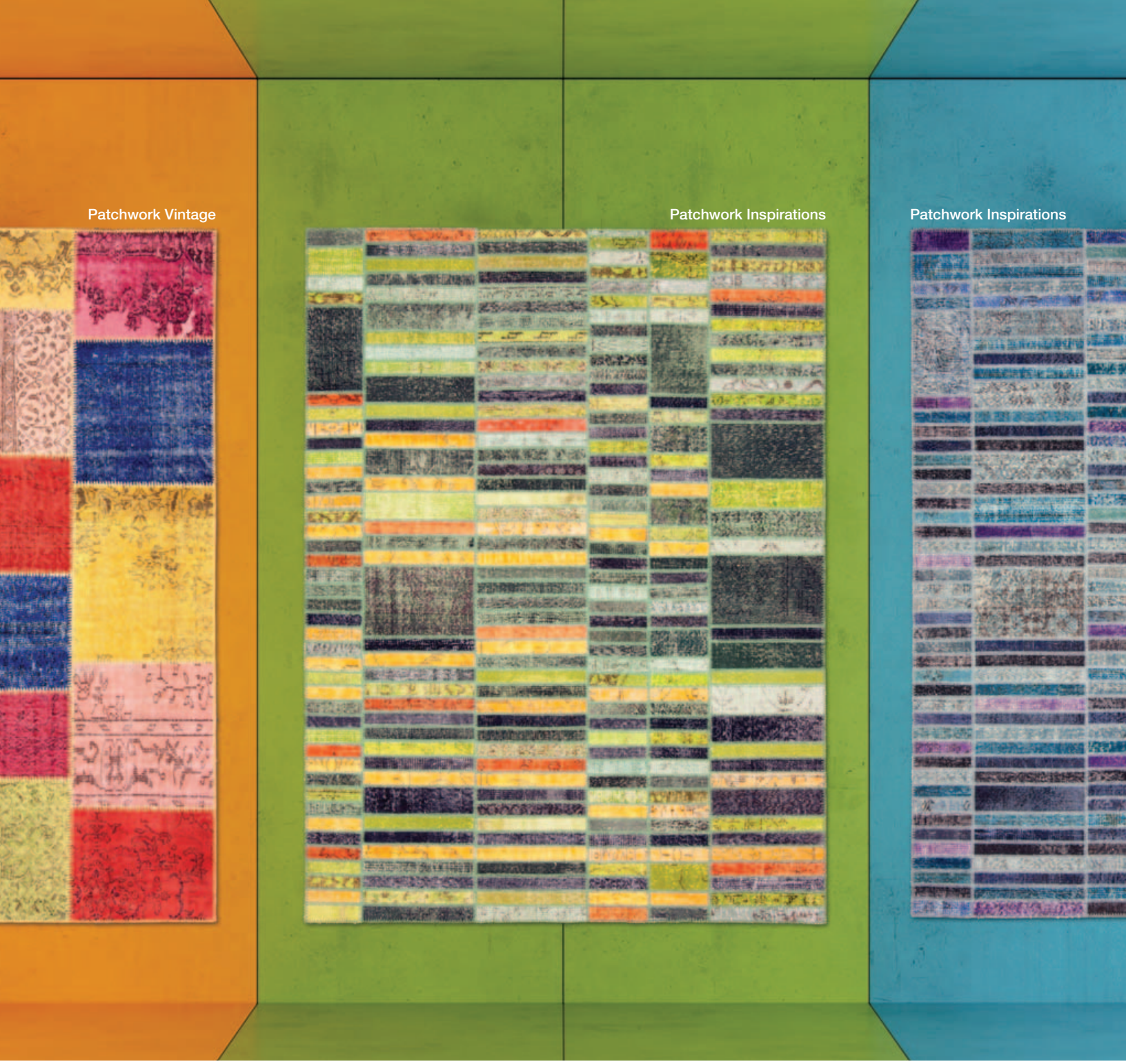

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CLUTTER **BUSTER**

When my husband and I made the decision to build our next home, the first thing I did (after signing on the dotted line) was subscribe to *Style at Home*. Since we have literally hundreds of decisions to make, I knew I could use the help. Needless to say, the Get Organized with Style issue (September 2015) was perfect for us!

HEATHER WHITFIELD, CAMBRIDGE, ON

PERFECT **PAIR**

My three-year-old daughter and I were so excited to read the September 2015 issue together. She loves to point out words and colours that she recognizes while I look at the featured kitchens for new ideas. The beet-inspired recipes ("Sweet on Beets," page 100) were also ideal; we have so many beets in our garden right now and we can't wait to test out all the dishes!

ALISA SAYCE, DELTA, BC

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The writer of our favourite letter next issue will win L'Oréal Paris's **AGE PERFECT CELL RENEWAL RANGE.** The package features three products, including a new replenishing eye renewal cream.

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The making of a new classic. In a refined swoop back to the 1950s, Gia graces the living room with an elegant mid-century curve of line and the best of old-school craftsmanship. Handcrafted in a family-owned North Carolina workshop that's home to generations of furniture makers, no corners are cut. The skills required to achieve its continuous curves and hand-tufted button back are exceptional and rare.

style news

PRODUCER MORGAN LINDSAY | **TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI

Cherry-veneered rubberwood Marcel **DINING TABLE,** $750, Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca.

OCTOBER'S MUST-HAVE: *dashing dining table*

A contemporary twist on the classic harvest dining table, this eight-seater boasts a hardwood body that's as enduring as its Mid-Century Modern styling.

ILLUSTRATION, MICHELLE MORELAN

BEE'S KNEES

WE'RE ABUZZ WITH EXCITEMENT ABOUT THE CAMDEN BED FRAME – WE LOVE ITS ELONGATED HONEYCOMB PATTERN AND WARM FINISH.

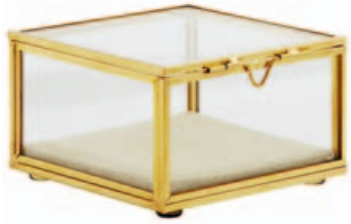
Leggett & Platt queen extruded-steel Camden **BED FRAME,** $699, Sleep Country, sleepcountry.ca.

Play up the unique open framework of the headboard and footboard with rich charcoal wall paint and a solid mustard yellow duvet cover.

TOP TIER

Inspired by iconic '60s architecture, Umbra Shift's new Tier side table is simplicity at its finest. The unusual positioning of the legs lends just enough interest, while the three commensurate surfaces offer plenty of open storage space.

Powder-coated steel Tier **SIDE TABLES,** $350 each, Umbra Shift, umbrashift.com.



MINI MOMENT

THIS FOUR-INCH-SQUARE GOLD-FRAMED GLASS DISPLAY CASE BOASTS A LINEN-UPHOLSTERED BOTTOM – A PERFECTLY PLUSH RESTING SPOT FOR YOUR JEWELS DU JOUR. SET IT ON YOUR DRESSING TABLE FOR A SWEET ACCENT.

Small glass Gold Square **DISPLAY CASE,** $30, Indigo, indigo.ca.

EARTH TO BED

U.S.-based Coyuchi prides itself on its sustainable organic textiles, which bear a refined rustic aesthetic. Take, for example, these throws: **THEY'RE MADE OF NATURALLY IRREGULAR SLUB LINEN YET FEATURE SMART STRIPES IN ACCENT HUES.** You'll love them more and more as they soften with each wash.

Cotton-backed Rustic Linen **THROWS,** $198 US each, Coyuchi, coyuchi.com.

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Blostma **WALL-PAPER** in BP 5205, $225 per double roll, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

PANEL PLAY

Blostma, one of Farrow & Ball's latest wallpaper offerings, features a small-scale dual-toned abstract spot motif that **works** well for adding subtle interest to door and wall panels.

The juxtaposition of homey cream-coloured and futuristic metallic yarns invigorates basic stripe and triangle patterns.

COMFORTING CREATURES

Cooling temperatures call for snuggly textures. **REMINISCENT OF COZY CHUNKY-KNIT SWEATERS,** these woven toss cushions deliver.

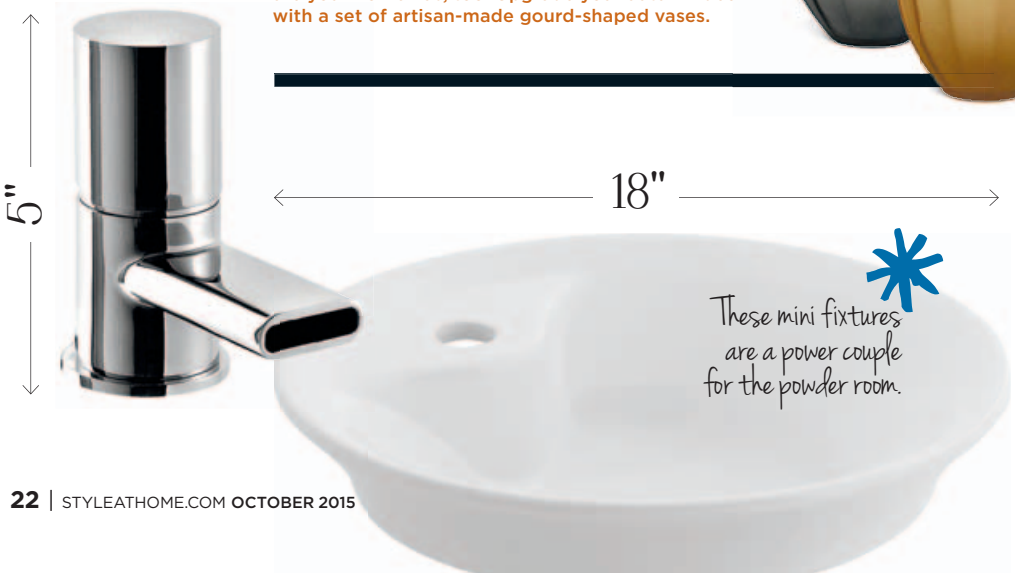
Woven chenille and cotton **TOSS CUSHIONS** with polyester inserts, from $30 each, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

These vases are ideal for fall but versatile enough to display year-round.

Allia hand-blown glass **VASES,** from $82 each, 18Karat, 18karatstore.com.

GOURD GAME

If your kids have outgrown pumpkin carving, odds are your home has, too. Upgrade your autumn decor with a set of artisan-made gourd-shaped vases.



These mini fixtures are a power couple for the powder room.

PETITE PAIR

IS YOUR LOO LOW ON SPACE? AQUABRASS'S ITALIAN-MADE MINIME FAUCET, THE SMALLEST ON THE MARKET, WILL FIT RIGHT IN – ESPECIALLY WHEN COMBINED WITH THE DIMINUTIVE MORNING SINK BY AMERICAN STANDARD.

Single-hole MiniMe **FAUCET** in Polished Chrome, $316, Aquabrass, aquabrass.com; vitreous china above-counter Morning **SINK** in White, $356, American Standard, americanstandard.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK (TOSS CUSHIONS)

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HOW TO

maintain a clean bathtub

Everything you need to know to keep your tub in sparkling condition. **PRODUCER** MARY LEVITSKI

Soap and water: Don't you feel clean just thinking about the two?

Sorry to burst your bubble, but over time, minerals in H_2O combine with soap molecules to form that layer of grime we all know (and loathe) as soap scum. Feel like you've tried every cleaner in the cabinet but nothing works? That's because most household cleaners are slightly alkaline, which enables them to cut through grease – but soap scum itself is also alkaline, so it renders them ineffective. Turn to naturally acidic vinegar: Mix it with equal parts warm water in a spray bottle, spritz the tub generously and leave on for 15 minutes. Scrub the surface with a soft sponge and rinse well. For an extra boost, sprinkle a bit of baking soda on the sponge first.

what's your type?

GET TO KNOW WHAT YOUR BATHTUB IS MADE OF SO YOU CAN CLEAN IT PROPERLY.

Acrylic: Highly resistant to damage, including staining, cracking, chipping and fading; however, it can scratch.

Fibreglass: Stain resistant but prone to scratching, cracking and, over time, discolouration.

Porcelain enamel: Durable so it can handle heavy abrasion, but vulnerable to chipping, which can cause the metal underneath (cast iron or steel) to rust. Bleach is a strict no-no, as it will cause discolouration.

caulk care

MUCH ADO ABOUT MILDEW

Caulking is a hot spot for mildew, so keep it clean and dry. A bit of mould can be eradicated – spray bleach on the area, leave for 15 minutes, scrub with a soft-bristled brush and rinse – but if the issue is rampant or your bathtub is enamelled (read: unbleachable), you will need to re-caulk it completely.

DOWN THE DRAIN

Oils and stray hair can accumulate in your drain. To prevent a clog, every few months pour half a cup of baking soda, then half a cup of white vinegar down the drain. Leave for a few minutes. Flush with hot water.

DO

Rinse your tub after each use. To totally prevent soap scum, mildew and hard water deposits, wipe it dry with a towel.

DON'T

Forget to turn on the bathroom fan; in fact, leave it on for about half an hour after showering.

DID YOU KNOW?

Primping products can help with tub care: Shampoo can stand in for cleaning solution, and painting the bottom edge of a metal shaving cream can with nail polish will keep it from leaving a rust ring.

tub tacklers

Clean soap scum and other grime with these three effective products.

POWDER
This all-natural, all-purpose powder makes a powerful paste when combined with water.

SuperScrub **POWDER,** $10, AspenClean, aspenclean.com.

SPONGE
No need to add a cleanser – just wet this melamine foam sponge and get wiping.

Magic Eraser Bath Scrubber **SPONGE,** $5 per pack of 2, Mr. Clean, mrclean.ca.

SPRAY
Scented with botanical extracts, this plant-derived spray cuts through scum.

Seventh Generation Tub & Tile Natural Cleaner **SPRAY,** $6, London Drugs, londondrugs.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH (BATHROOM)

Gain

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Merci is a popular design shop that always has fresh items on display.

A Must-try

PARIS

EDITOR'S ITINERARY: Le Marais

Style at Home editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin recently returned from a dreamy two weeks in Paris. We asked her to spill about all things French and fabulous in her favourite neighbourhood.

Number of days to spend here

2

Day 1

Paris is synonymous with delicious food and superb style, and Le Marais, on the right bank of the Seine River, is quintessentially Parisian. Seriously, you don't need to leave this charming district to experience French city life.

Use **Airbnb** to book a beautiful apartment for your stay. You'll feel like an insider, exploring the neighbourhood and sipping rosé with samplings of French cheeses on your balcony.

First things first: A double espresso and pain au chocolat at **Carette (6),** one of Paris's prettiest patisseries in the Place des Vosges at the heart of Le Marais.

After breakfast, make your way to the **Musée National Picasso-Paris,** which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. In a stunning Baroque mansion setting, take in works by the famed painter and artists he was close to.

Assuming you've worked up an appetite for lunch, head to the **Marché des Enfants Rouges,** Paris's oldest covered market. Try local favourite **Chez Alain Miam Miam's** Cornet Vegetarian, a delicious buckwheat crepe stuffed with organic veggies.

Spend the afternoon wandering and shopping. Browse **Home Autour du Monde,** fashion designer Serge Bensimon's light-filled store, which carries a curated collection of clothing and housewares.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FRANÇOIS FLOHIC (SEPTIME), CARIN OLSSON (CARETTE)

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Then pop by quirky antiques shop **Hier Pour Demain** just steps away.

Since it's *en vogue* to eat a late dinner in Paris, start with an aperitif at **La Belle Hortense,** a wine bar/bookstore. Crowd around the gorgeous zinc bar, peruse the extensive wine list and browse the stacks of books that line the walls. My husband and I shared a bottle of **Christian Moueix Pomerol (5)** from France's Bordeaux region.

For dinner, I especially love **Chez Janou (2) –** I even named one of my dogs after the charming restaurant – tucked away on rue Roger-Verlomme. Be sure to order the divine Mousse au Chocolat.

Day 2

Sleep in and then enjoy brunch at **Le Voltigeur.** Order a croque monsieur (grilled ham and cheese covered in velvety béchamel sauce) at this eclectic bistro with wood-panelled walls and funky decor.

Make your way to **Merci (1),** where you'll find new and vintage items with an emphasis on French-designed goods. Its **Used Book Café** is also worth checking out.

Pick up an ice cream cone at **Une Glace à Paris (3)** and then return to Place des Vosges. Here, a formal garden lined with clipped chestnut trees is surrounded by 17th-century red-brick residences. There's no better place for a picnic: Source your supplies from the local street market and find a grassy spot to laze away the afternoon.

Indulge in a late dinner at **Septime (4),** just outside Le Marais. With its cool, laid-back vibe and stellar food and wine pairings, this popular locale is a must-visit for travelling foodies.

perfect lips

◀ Lux Lip **LIPSTICK** in Parisian Red, $41, Bobbi Brown, bobbibrown.ca.

classic stripes

▲ Saint James for J.Crew Slouchy **T-SHIRT,** $131, J.Crew, jcrew.com.

patterned scarf

▶ Silk **SCARF,** $39, Horseware Ireland, horseware.com.

style guide

◀ *Parisian Chic: A Style Guide* **BOOK** by Ines de la Fressange, $34, Indigo, indigo.ca.

What's black, striped and red all over? This effortlessly casual Parisian uniform.

what to PACK

comfy flats

▼ Collection No.1 **BALLET FLATS** in Passionate Red, approx. $200, Josefinas, josefinas.com.

chic specs

▲ Nubia **EYEGLASSES** in Ecaille, $299, Caroline Abram, carolineabram.com.

effortless jeans

▶ 001 **JEANS** in Black, approx. $137, Sézane, sezane.com.

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Airbnb
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Carette
carette-paris.fr

Musée National Picasso-Paris
museepicassoparis.fr

Marché des Enfants Rouges & Chez Alain Miam Miam
marchedesenfants-rougesfr.com

Home Autour du Monde
bensimon.com

Hier Pour Demain
antiquites-hierpour-demain.com

La Belle Hortense
cafeine.com

Christian Moueix Pomerol
moueix.com

Chez Janou
chezjanou.com

Le Voltigeur
levoltigeur.fr

Merci & Used Book Café
merci-merci.com

Une Glace à Paris
une-glace-a-paris.fr

Septime
septime-charonne.fr

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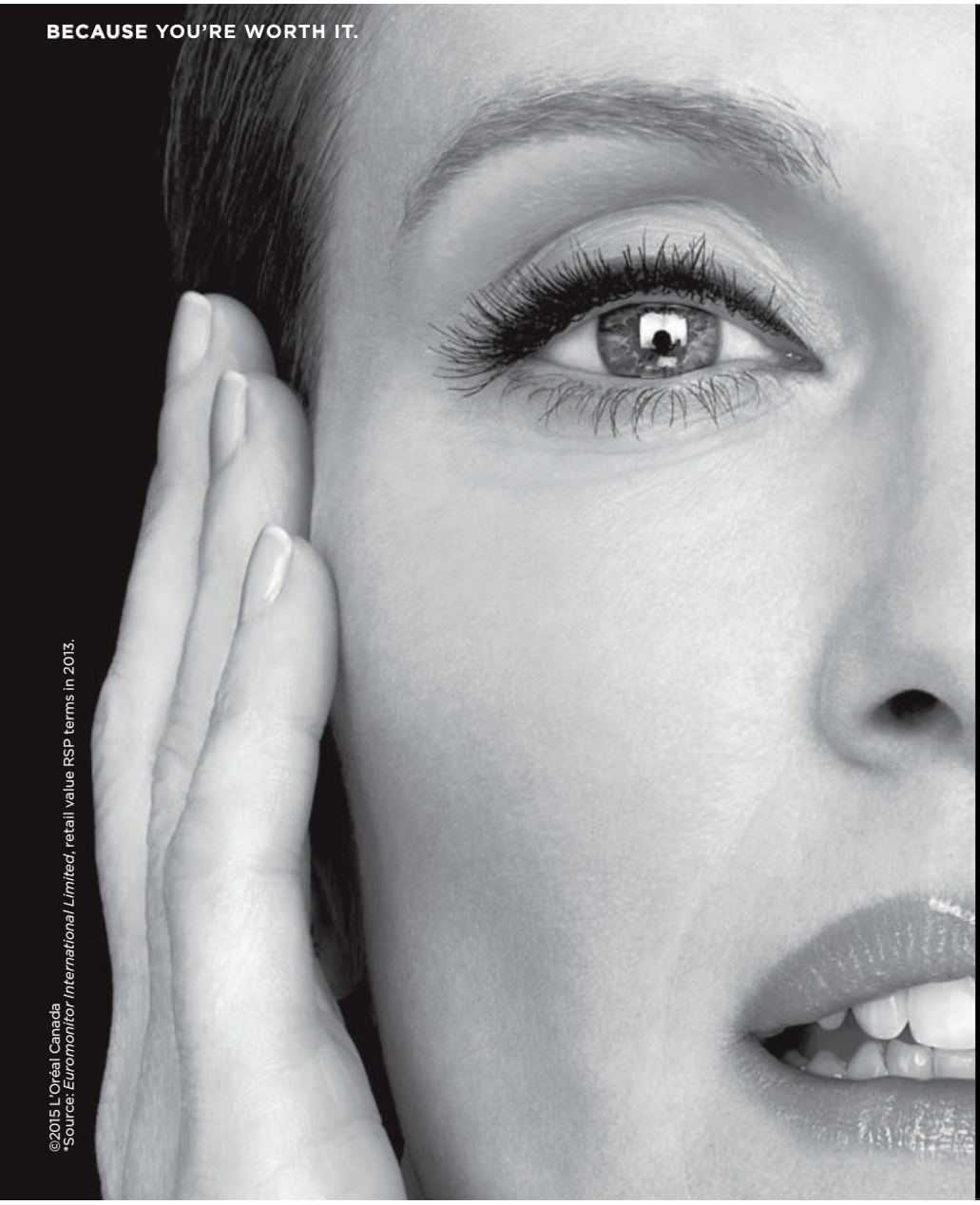

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PRODUCER AMANDA ETTY

kitchen cravings

Each issue, we round up the latest and greatest kitchen gadgets, gourmet products, cookbooks and more.

SPECIALTY BREWS

HIGH-TECH

Entertain with ease using Saeco's latest espresso machine. Simply queue up your guests' coffee orders on your tablet, selecting from 18 options – including intense ristretto and frothy cappuccino.

Saeco GranBaristo Avanti **ESPRESSO MACHINE,** $3,000, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

2

MUDDLE ALONG

These colour-blocked muddlers are good-looking *and* functional – perfect for creating our cocktail pick (shown at right).

Color Block **MUDDLERS** in White and Gray, $20 US each, Sucre Shop, sucreshop.com.

3

HOT OFF THE GRILL

Barbecue year-round with this electric hibachi designed for indoor or outdoor use. It cooks quickly and evenly with grill marks to boot.

Electric **HIBACHI,** $449, Downtown Grill, downtowngrill.ca.

1

SIMPLE BREWS

LOW-TECH

This enamelled coffee kettle boasts a modern design and comes with a beechwood trivet for serving.

Cowboy **COFFEE KETTLE** in Black with beechwood trivet, $90, Umbra Shift, umbrashift.com.

4

CHEESE, PLEASE

On your next night in, treat yourself to a selection of cheeses on this wine-bottle-shaped wooden board and serve with a matching vino (or two).

Wine Bottle **CUTTING BOARD,** $130 US, Weber Company, weber-co.com.

OH, CANADA!

When your day calls for a stiff drink, consult *A Field Guide to Canadian Cocktails*, a collection of True North spirits. This month, we've decided to mix up The Canadian, which is likened to a classic Old-Fashioned, made with maple sugar candy in place of a sugar cube.

the CANADIAN

Cut 1 small maple leaf sugar candy in half. Place one half into an old-fashioned glass. Add 2 dashes Bittered Sling Kensington Dry Aromatic bitters or Angostura bitters. Muddle into a paste. Add a large ice cube to the old-fashioned glass. Pour in 2 oz Canadian rye whisky. Pull a long strip of lemon peel over the glass, releasing oils into the cocktail. Gently pinch, peel side out, misting oils over the surface of the drink. Rub the peel around the outside rim of the glass, then add it to the glass. Serve.

THE CANADIAN RECIPE EXCERPTED WITH PERMISSION FROM *A FIELD GUIDE TO CANADIAN COCKTAILS* BY SCOTT MCCALLUM & VICTORIA WALSH, PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUAN LUNA ©APPETITE BY RANDOM HOUSE 2015

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ZWILLING J.A.HENCKELS

apple *fritters*

The versatile *apple* makes its play this month, coming in ahead of the rest of the ubiquitous *fall fruits* by a mile.

THE REASON IS THIS CRACKING-GOOD GOOEY DESSERT THAT'S LIKE A DEEP-FRIED PIE PLUS CAKE PLUS ICING ALL ROLLED INTO ONE. WE CAN'T WAIT TO DIG IN!

RECIPE & FOOD STYLING
TANYA ENG

PHOTOGRAPHY
JOE KIM

PROP STYLING
ANN MARIE FAVOT

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1

2

3

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4

5

6

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 12

Apple Fritters

- 2 cups diced apple
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- Vegetable oil for frying
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup whole milk
- 4 cups cubed day-old bread (crusts removed)
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt

Glaze

- 1 cup icing sugar
- 3 tbsp 2% milk
- 1 tsp Madagascar vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

Combine the apples and cinnamon in a medium bowl. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the apple mixture and sauté until softened. Stir in the sugar and heat until dissolved. Continue cooking, stirring frequently, until the liquid is reduced to a golden syrup; set aside to cool.

Heat three inches of vegetable oil in a large pot over medium-high heat until a candy or deep-fryer thermometer inserted into the oil registers 325°F.

Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk together the eggs and milk; stir in the bread cubes and cooled apples until combined. Stir in the flour, baking powder and salt until a doughy consistency is reached (the batter should be sticky and hold together in a clump when spooned).

Carefully drop ¼ cup of the batter into the oil, four or five at a time, and fry to a dark golden brown, flipping once. Drain the fritters on pieces of paper towel.

To make the glaze, whisk together the icing sugar, milk and vanilla in a small bowl. Dip each fritter into the glaze and let sit on a cooling rack to set before serving.

The new **GROHE Essence+** kitchen faucet presents a slim architectural shape that is ideal for a contemporary kitchen, inviting touch and interaction. A distinctive, super-slim body conceals a 28 mm cartridge, ensuring years of reliable performance. The solid metal hand spray houses a toggle allowing you to switch easily between two spray patterns. **Essence+** fixtures are also available for the bath and shower, letting you create a coordinated look for your entire home.

GROHE Essence+ kitchen faucets in two finishes are available this fall.

GROHE.CA

GROHE

This timeless media room designed by Halina Catherine emulates a European farmhouse – with a few extra layers of warmth. Here's how to recreate the look.

TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH

media room

SCOPE OUT SEATING THAT MATCHES YOUR ROOM'S BASE PALETTE TO GIVE PROMINENCE TO OTHER STANDOUT FEATURES, SUCH AS THIS SPACE'S HERRINGBONE FLOOR AND COFFERED CEILING, BOTH MADE FROM RECLAIMED WOOD.

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A GRID-LIKE GALLERY WALL CAN BE JUST AS EYE-CATCHING AS AN ASYMMETRICAL ARRANGEMENT. FOR A CREATIVE AND PERSONAL TOUCH, FRAME SEGMENTS OF A FAVOURITE PHOTO OR MAP UNTIL THE BIG PICTURE IS REVEALED.

DESIGN, Halina Catherine Design, 416-317-8404; Grant Beige HC-83 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **MEDIA UNIT DESIGN,** custom **MEDIA UNIT,** Villa Kitchens & Fine Cabinetry; **SECTIONAL,** Montauk Sofa; **ARMCHAIR, CONSOLE,** Elte; **OTTOMAN,** green **TABLE LAMP, BASKET,** Angus & Company; black **SIDE TABLE,** Crate and Barrel; custom **DRAPERY,** Auropol Creative Window Decor; custom **FLOORING & CEILING,** Century Wood Products; **RUG,** Reznick Carpets; *Renoir* **ARTWORK** (above fireplace) by James Ridyard, Canvas Gallery; custom **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Halina Catherine Design; **VESSELS** (on console), L'Atelier.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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A SOPHISTICATED SPACE IS ALL IN THE DETAILS, AS EVIDENCED BY THIS PRETTY VIGNETTE OF SHOWY BLOOMS, A VINTAGE-LOOK TRAY AND SOME DISPLAY-WORTHY READS.

get the look

European Farmhouse

Wicker Seagrass **BASKETS** in Brown, from $79 US each, Restoration Hardware, rh.com.

▼ Small framed Vintage-inspired Paris Map **PRINT,** $661, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

Steamed P5225-34 **PAINT,** from $55 per gallon, Para Paints, para.com.

Small Double Gourd **TABLE LAMP** in Emerald, $365, Elte, elte.com.

▼ Woven **TOSS CUSHION,** $40, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

▲ Axis II 3-piece **SECTIONAL** in Nickel, $5,497, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

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PROBLEM

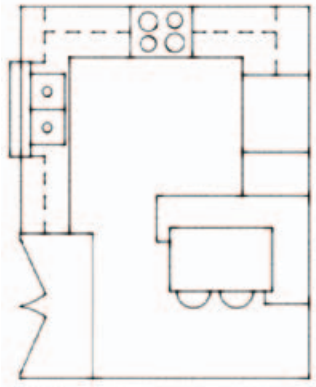
An out-of-style, spatially awkward kitchen

SOLUTION

Devise a layout to achieve optimum flow

FLOOR PLAN

135 sq. ft.



it's in the *details*

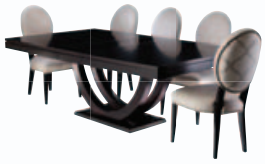
The fetching minimalist look of this newly renovated kitchen was achieved with careful consideration of every square inch of space.

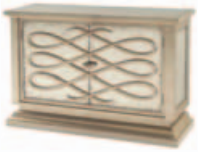
TEXT LESLEY YOUNG | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANGUS FERGUSSON | **STYLING** STACY BEGG

ABOVE The homeowners splurged on tailor-made cabinetry to get all the storage they needed but saved money by choosing cost-effective appliances. The custom range hood – a specialty vent insert surrounded by black-painted MDF – cost 20 percent less than a store-bought version. An inlay of black and white marble basket weave floor tiles elegantly marks the entrance to the backyard.

DESIGN, Interiors by Stacey Cohen, interiorsbystaceycohen.com; **COUNTERTOPS, BACKSPLASH, TABLETOP,** Caesarstone Canada; **RANGE HOOD,** Interiors by Stacey Cohen; **DINING CHAIRS,** IKEA; **FLOOR TILES,** Stone Tile International; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Ginger's.

sleeping bea[u]ty





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[u]nion

LIGHTING & FURNISHINGS

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LEFT The cabinet doors open up to reveal ceiling-high storage space. "We went with a fairly streamlined profile to keep the look minimalistic," says designer Stacey Cohen. "Painting the cabinets white would have been too stark, so we coated them in a soft grey to tie in with the transitional bones of the home."

Stonington Grey HC-170 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; Whirlpool **DISHWASHER,** Caplan's Appliances; **SINK,** Blanco; **FAUCET,** Grohe.

BOTTOM The Caesarstone sink front provides a high-end feel.

The busy professionals who own this 14-year-old midtown Toronto home were fed up with their outdated cookie-cutter kitchen, especially the seating arrangement. The table was positioned right smack in the middle of the room – which is fully open to the living area – obstructing the flow and blocking the entrance to the backyard. In addition to much smarter seating, the couple wanted to maximize storage space, so they turned to designer Stacey Cohen to give the kitchen a fresh, simple, clean-lined look and make it fully functional.

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DESIGNER

A HINGED PANEL CLEVERLY CONCEALS A CHARGING STATION.

LEFT The white-painted brick veneer wall and faux croc banquette add subtle texture to the space. To further keep the look simple, Stacey (pictured) not only used Caesarstone on the countertops and backsplash but also had it cut into a tabletop for the banquette.

Custom **BANQUETTE,** Interiors by Stacey Cohen; vinyl **BANQUETTE FABRIC,** Kravet Canada.

BELOW What might have been dead space was turned into a functional corner with the addition of a built-in microwave.

Whirlpool **COOKTOP & WALL OVEN,** Bosch **REFRIGERATOR,** Panasonic **MICROWAVE,** Caplan's Appliances.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

The planning process

"The kitchen didn't allow for a stand-alone table with chairs without it looking awkward," says Stacey. "So we came up with the idea of placing a banquette against the return of the cabinetry. This enabled us to add both open and closed storage behind the seating." Stacey also extended the cabinets to the ceiling and squeezed narrow ones into the corners and next to the range, taking advantage of every available square inch.

The design decisions

Since the homeowners have a simple style, Stacey focused on adding details throughout the kitchen rather than creating a single bold statement. For example, instead of facing the front of the sink with a panel to match the cabinetry, she used the same material as the countertop for an unexpected touch; she had the back of the banquette tufted to make it extra special; and she opted for a contrasting black range hood and hardware, giving the space a dramatic quality.

The result

"My clients really enjoy the space now," says Stacey. "It goes to show how much our environment truly affects us."

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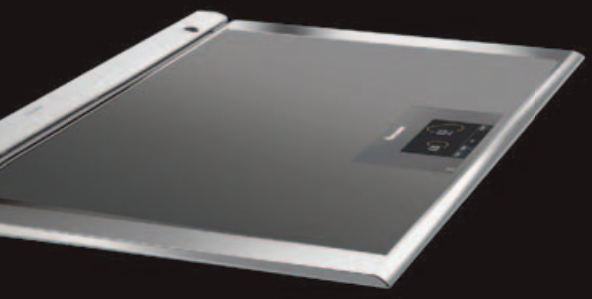

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high OR low?

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See page 52.

PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE | **TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL NANGREAVES

HIGH & LOW Kendall Charcoal HC-166 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

$845

1 Custom double-arm branching 6-light steel **CHANDELIER** in Antique Black with porcelain sockets, Lampcage, lampcage.com.

$480

2 Lined cotton Wallace **DRAPERY PANELS** in Grey with grommets, 52″ x 84″, $120 each, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

$165

3 Mud Australia large Pebble **BOWL** in Ash, The Salt & Pepper Catering Co., salt-peppercatering.com.

$110

4 Linen Way linen Toledo **TABLE RUNNERS** in Natural, 17″ x 67″, $55 each, Love'co Home, lovecohome.myshopify.com.

$12,000

5 Siam limited edition lacquered suar wood Kinnari **DINING TABLE** with stainless steel base, 10′, Artemano, artemano.ca.

$2,395

6 Oak **DINING CHAIRS** in black finish, $479 each, Art Shoppe, theartshoppe.com.

$1,149

7 Wool Eli **RUG** in Beige, 6′ x 9′, Structube, structube.com.

$530

1 Atelier branching 15-light iron **CHANDELIER** with glass globe shades, Bouclair, bouclair.com.

$140

2 Polyester **DRAPERY PANELS** with grommets, 42″ x 84″, $70 per pair, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$50

3 Ceramic grey salad **BOWL,** Elte, elte.com.

$14

4 Premium burlap **TABLE RUNNER,** 14″ x 132″, Rustic Weddings, rusticweddings.ca.

$7,995

5 Lacquered suar wood Freeform **DINING TABLE** in Natural with powder-coated stainless steel base, 12′, Artemano, artemano.ca.

$495

6 IKEA PS 2012 **DINING CHAIRS,** $99 each, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$332

7 Handmade jute Natural **RUG** in Ivory & White, 8′ x 10′, O.co.

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MEDIUM
Ten-light bronze-finished metal Mid Century Orb, $658, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

HIGH
Eight-light aluminum and steel Bistro Globe Clear Glass in Brass, $1,250 US, Restoration Hardware, rh.com.

LOW
Six-light plated-metal Mobile in Antique Bronze, $299, West Elm, westelm.com.

BRANCH OUT

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run of the meal

No matter how delectable the food at your next dinner party, this solid suar wood tabletop promises to be the star. Covering the intricate lacquered surface with a tablecloth would be a decor sin, but leaving it exposed to spills and scratches would be doubly so. Get the best of both worlds with a neutral table runner – whether it's a simple unadorned option or one with subtle details, such as a fringed edge or an embroidered border.

FROM LEFT Fringed linen Beckett in Natural, 20″ x 90″, $70, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca; Linen Way embroidered linen Duet in Natural & Yellow, 19″ x 67″, $44, and linen Luke Herringbone in Natural, 18″ x 59″, $44, Love'co Home, lovecohome.myshopify.com; cotton blend Märit in Beige, 14″ x 51″, $7, IKEA, ikea.ca; Linen Way linen Toledo in Beige, 17″ x 67″, $55, Love'co Home, lovecohome.myshopify.com; stainless steel **FORKS** with melamine handles in Brown, $6 each, Zara Home, zarahome.com.

Got a spill? To maintain this wooden tabletop's natural look, eschew commercial cleaners in favour of a damp cloth; be sure to dry well.

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TIP: Reusing old bottles? To remove any sticky residue from labels, scrub with a dab of peanut butter.

Vintage-look glass **BOTTLES,** $52 per set of 24, through designers, Hofland, hofland.com; Rust-Oleum Painter's Touch **SPRAY PAINT** in Flat Black, $8, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

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Lohals, 6′ x 8′, $99, IKEA, ikea.ca.

braided wool

A single twisted thick wool strand that's sewn row by row to a backing has a braided look.

Handmade Eli in Beige with cotton backing, 6′ x 9′, $1,149, Structube, structube.com.

fine sisal

Tightly woven in a subtle box pattern, this sisal boasts a smart cotton border.

NuLoom Alexa Eco with cotton border in Beige, 8′ x 10′, $283, O.co.

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PRODUCER STACY BEGG
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PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH

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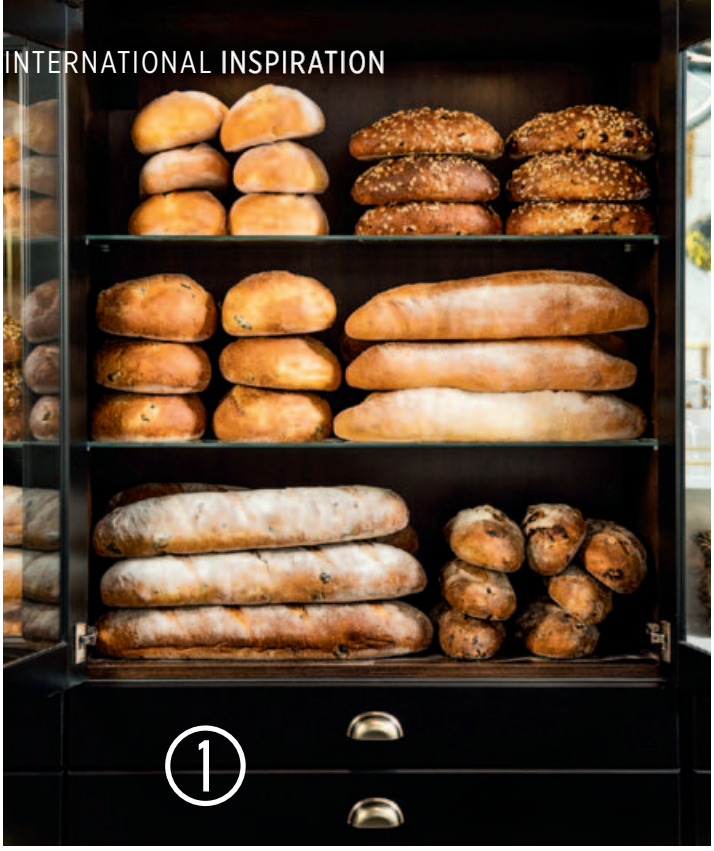


Paris: place for lovers, City of Lights, cultural capital, foodie haven and decor muse. It's no wonder that when *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin and design editor Stacy Begg were tasked with creating a kitchen for Toronto's 2015 Interior Design Show using IKEA's new Sektion kitchen system, they both sought inspiration from this well-loved city. Recalling a pretty Parisian *boulangerie*, they envisioned a Deco palette of black, white and brass elevated with traditional design details like wall panelling, vintage mirrors and extra-tall floor-to-ceiling cabinetry. How lucky then that Sektion, with its many modular options, lends itself so well to custom designing a kitchen that's as chic as it is convenient and organized. The LED-lit cabinets and drawers, pullout waste storage solution, panelled dishwasher and new induction cooktop are just a few of our favourite features. Here are 12 more ways to make your own kitchen a *force majeure*.

1. GO BACK TO BLACK

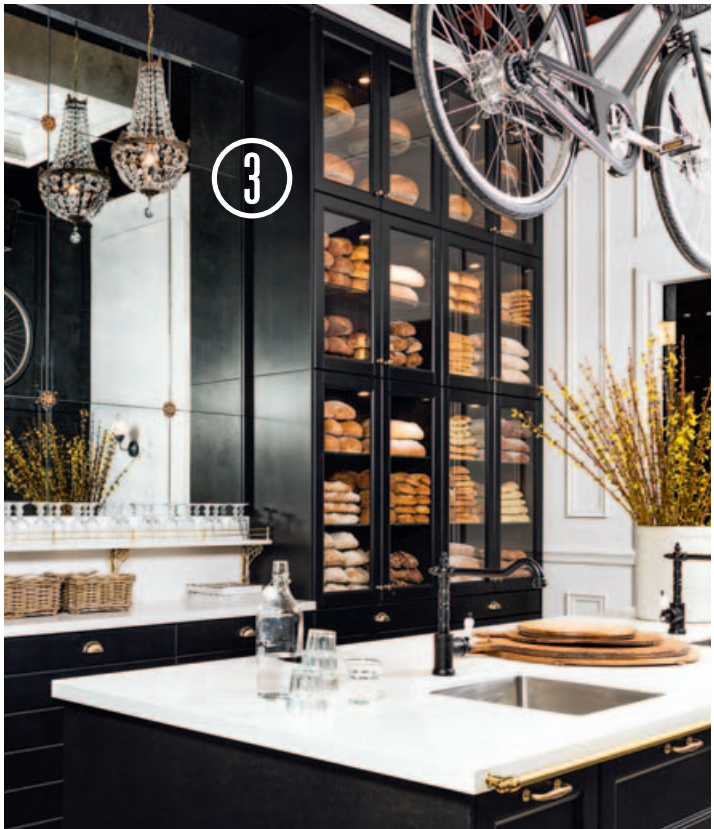
In the wake of go-to white kitchens, black is making a striking comeback. Here, slim, deep drawers offer organized storage for smaller items like flatware, utensils, spices and linens.

2. HAVE BRASS ROOTS

Elegant yet convenient details, such as a brass-railed shelf for glasses and brass rods for hanging everyday pots, pans and dishcloths, lend an air of a fashionable French bistro.

3. REACH FOR THE SKY

Stacked glass-fronted floor-to-ceiling cabinetry accentuates the kitchen's height and drives home the *boulangerie* look – especially when filled with delicious breads from Ontario-based Ace Bakery.



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4. ADD A TOUCH OF WHIMSY

This hanging bike pays homage to a favourite Parisian scene: commuters bringing home baguettes in the baskets of their bicycles.

5. CREATE SMOKE & MIRRORS

While the mirrored wall framed within the cabinetry produces the illusion of more space on one side of the room, a collection of smaller vintage mirrors on this side mimics an artistic gallery display.

6. STRIKE A BALANCE

The cooktop and range hood are intentionally centred with the island and its two sinks rather than with the ceiling-height cabinetry they sit between – a design move that reminds us of old Parisian restaurants.

7. HAVE A SINKING FEELING

Two well-spaced sinks in the island mean many hands can simultaneously be hard at work in this kitchen, whether prepping, cooking, cleaning or just tasting.

8. CAST A HEX

Modern hexagonal cement-look porcelain floor tiles offer a stunning juxtaposition to the otherwise traditional space.

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9. RETHINK THE SEATS

The banquette base was cleverly created from standard cabinets, offering extra storage.

10. CALL ON COPPER

Many French chefs contend that copper cookware is the best, so it's a key component of a Parisian-style kitchen.

11. MAKE OLD MEET NEW

The mix of brand new and collected vintage dishware gives the kitchen a well-loved and lived-in vibe.

12. GET ORNAMENTAL

Ornate brass shelf brackets add old-world elegance to basic white shelves without looking too formal.

KITCHEN INSTALLATION, through IKEA Installation Services, Sektion Laxarby **CABINETRY,** Caesarstone quartz **COUNTERTOPS** in Frosty Carrina, through IKEA, **COOKTOP, WALL OVENS, RANGE HOOD, SINKS, FAUCETS, BISTRO TABLE BASE, BISTRO CHAIRS, STOOLS, BANQUETTE FABRIC,** blue **DRAPERY PANEL** (used to create custom toss cushions), **SHELVES,** gold-leaf-framed **MIRROR** (customized, above banquette), **SCONCES** with globe shade, **BASKETS, CASSEROLE, PITCHERS, BOTTLES, MORTAR & PESTLE, MUGS, GLASSWARE, CABINETRY HARDWARE,** IKEA; Cole & Son Fornasetti II Nuvolette **WALLPAPER** in 97/2007, Lee Jofa; Approach **FLOOR TILES** in Bianco, Gris and Brown, Mettro Source; antiqued **MIRROR PANELS,** Canada Glass & Mirror Co.; black articulating **SCONCES,** Rejuvenation; brass **RODS, GALLERY RAIL, BRACKETS & S-HOOKS,** The Door Store; **BICYCLE** with basket, Curbside Cycle; all-natural artisan **BREAD,** Ace Bakery.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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Canadian Living

In this sharply dressed Victorian, a single tone of the most talked about colour in town reigns.

A casual bar is ready for use in the dining area, where a charming tangled chandelier steals the spotlight. The Tulip-style table and Mid-Century Modern-look chairs have a homey retro quality that works with the dame in the frame.

DESIGN, Peloso Alexander Interiors, pelosoalexander.com; Overcoat CC-544 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **DINING TABLE,** Pink & Brown; **DINING CHAIRS,** Elite Living; custom **CONSOLE,** Peloso Alexander Interiors; *Impermanence* **ARTWORK** by Sonja Scharf, Akasha Art Projects; **CHANDELIER,** Arteriors Home; gold **BOWL,** Elte.

IN WITH THE NEW

TEXT IRIS BENAROIA | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH | **STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

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LEFT & BELOW A row of brassy cage pendant lights plays off the metallic sheen of the hardware and gooseneck faucet in the show-stopping monochromatic kitchen.

Custom **CABINETRY,** Peloso Alexander Interiors; Overcoat CC-544 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **WINE RACKS,** Rosehill Wine Cellars; custom tempered-glass **WINE CABINET DOOR,** Metro Hardware; **COUNTERTOPS,** Emporium Natural Stones; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Tycos Tile; **APPLIANCES,** Jenn-Air; **SINK,** Blanco; **FAUCET,** Watermarks Kitchen & Bath Boutique; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Renwil; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Upper Canada Specialty Hardware.

ABOVE In this decidedly Deco entryway, a slim gold-leafed console and eye-catching mirror immediately engage.

CONSOLE, Designer Inspired Interiors; **MIRROR,** Peloso Alexander Interiors; **TABLE LAMP,** Robert Abbey; **UMBRELLA HOLDER,** Global Views.

ONE OUTCOME OF MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE is finally unloading all the stuff you've been hoarding. But relocating isn't only about getting rid of your belongings – it's also an ideal time to adopt fresh decor. For Adam Morrison, who works for the Ontario government, and his partner, James Owen, a family doctor, this meant taking on a daring monochromatic palette amped up with glamorous gold when they swapped their subdued loft for a Victorian in Toronto's Riverdale neighbourhood.

The all-grey abode is the work of designers Glen Peloso, Jamie Alexander and Vanessa Esposito of Peloso Alexander Interiors, who made over the couple's previous home. Says Adam: "We went from a contemporary loft to this house, which is elegant, luxurious and masculine." Not only is the decor a departure for the homeowners, but so is the footprint. At 1,900 square feet (the loft was about half the size), their new place better lends itself to entertaining the couple's "revolving guests" – Adam's description for their entourage of visiting family and friends.

As for going grey, Adam says he and James were all for it, given that "the house is bright with a lot of natural light." But let's face it: Although monochromatic →

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"It recalls an old-fashioned gentleman's study from a bygone era," says designer Jamie Alexander of the living room. A pair of blue velvet armchairs with gold-leafed geometric frames lends contemporary weight. "The result is a comfortable and durable space – you can sit with a glass of scotch and a book, and life won't end if you spill something on the rug," says homeowner Adam Morrison.

ARMCHAIRS, Worlds Away; **COFFEE TABLE,** Casalife; **RUG, MIRROR,** Peloso Alexander Interiors; **TRAY, VASE,** Global Views; **BOWL,** Elte.

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"We went from a contemporary loft to this house, which is **ELEGANT, LUXURIOUS AND MASCULINE.**"

LEFT "It's a modern version of a classic four-poster bed in brushed brass," says Jamie. An old one would have felt too fussy in the master bedroom, which features shimmery wallpaper.

Candice Olson **WALLPAPER,** Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; **BED FRAME,** Designer Inspired Interiors; **BEDDING,** custom **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Peloso Alexander Interiors; **RUG, THROW,** Elte.

BELOW A pair of oval mirrors in the master bedroom offers simple adornment, so the focus is on the leaded-glass windows, which are original to the house.

MIRRORS, Peloso Alexander Interiors; **FLOOR LAMP,** Robert Abbey.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

rooms instantly captivate, they can also fall into the trap of looking flat and lifeless. "That's why we layered the lighting – so the space comes across as cozy," says Jamie. "People often ask what colour makes a room feel bright, and I say, 'The first step is addressing the lighting. Deal with it before thinking about colour.'"

Another consideration was fusing classic elements with newer ones. "We wanted to pay homage to Victorian style," says Glen, who eschews interiors that suffer from an identity crisis. "You see this a lot: Victorian houses that look Bauhaus style inside." Glen's other bugbear is an "open-concept space that feels like a cafeteria." To avoid this, the designers retained some of the home's original character, including the front vestibule to create a sense of arrival. They also jazzed up built-in bookcases in the living room by trimming them with crown moulding.

But there was no chance of keeping anything in "the charmless kitchen," says Jamie. Its removal was swift. In its place, the designers devised an elegant grey and gold kitchen with Shaker-style cabinetry and generous wine storage. It's now a space for socializing and savouring a fine vintage from their impressive wine collection – something the couple *didn't* get rid of during the move.

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RUB-A-DUB-DUB The inside of the original clawfoot tub was re-enamelled and its outside painted black. "The bathtub is really beautiful," says homeowner Jane Wood. "It's six feet long but quite narrow, and apparently it's a style that's hard to find now." A wall of oversized eight-by-12-inch bevelled subway tiles (which offer visual interest without being too busy) and a marble-topped ledge continue from the glass-enclosed shower for a seamless look.

The black vintage clawfoot tub acts as a dramatic focal point. The narrow ledge behind it is perfect for displaying pretty finds.

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After moving into their 125-year-old rowhouse in downtown Toronto last year, Jane and Jeff Wood did a few cosmetic fix-ups to update the charming home, but the dark, cramped, showerless bathroom needed a complete overhaul. The couple enlisted designer Cameron MacNeil to create a bathroom that better accommodated their family. Expanding and reconfiguring the space, he incorporated the original tub and added an expansive shower and double vanity. He used classic materials like marble and brass for a fresh, light look that suits the rest of the house.

The spacious shower was outfitted with all the bells and whistles, including a rain shower head.

FLOOR SHOW The elegant herringbone-patterned floor is both current and timeless. "We went to the store and picked the marble tile with the nicest colouring," says designer Cameron MacNeil. "It was 18 by 18 inches, so we had each of them cut down to four by 18 inches." The same tile, combined with black marble, was used to make the graphic mosaic on the shower floor. The shower also features a luxurious water system with jets, along with hand-held and rain shower heads.

MIX MASTER With Shaker-style drawers and legs instead of a toe kick, the marble-topped vanity has a traditional furniture-like look. Its brass knobs as well as the brass sconces hung above the inset mirrored medicine cabinets pleasantly contrast the contemporary chrome fixtures. The sinks' wall-mounted faucets are a practical choice: "They're easier to clean, and you can put more stuff around the sinks," says Jane. An old barbershop display cabinet, which Jane found on eBay, serves as a fun storage piece. The bathroom's combination of grey, black and white elements creates a fresh, neutral palette. "And it's not all white, which is nice," says Cameron.

DESIGN, Cameron MacNeil, cameronmacneil.com; **CONTRACTING,** R.G.I. Renascent Group; Oxford White CC-30 **WALL PAINT,** Coventry Gray HC-169 **VANITY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **WALL TILES,** Mettro Source; custom **VANITY,** Cameron MacNeil; **COUNTERTOP,** Marble & Granite Stonecraft; **SHOWER FIXTURES, SINKS, FAUCETS,** Mist Bath; **FLOOR TILES,** Creekside Tile; mirrored **MEDICINE CABINETS,** Restoration Hardware; **SCONCES,** Cocoon Furnishings; **TOWELS,** Ginger's; **KNOBS,** Lee Valley Tools.

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2 PARISIAN PRETTY

GREY AND CREAM PALETTE + CLASSIC DOUBLE WASHSTAND + TRADITIONAL FIXTURES + HINTS OF SPARKLE AND SHINE

PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL GRAYDON | **STYLING** CHRISTINE HANLON

Adding a sconce between the two inset mirrored medicine cabinets is unexpected, and the repetition is pleasing to the eye.

ON THE DOUBLE A dual-sink washstand with a Calacatta marble top sets an elegant tone in the bathroom. Its open bottom allows the eye to take in the stunning chevron-patterned floor, which is made of 12-by-18-inch marble tiles cut down to six by 12. "I got them for their striations," says homeowner and designer Jenifer Glover. "The tile is interesting and works well in this application."

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An 80-year-old clawfoot tub found on Craigslist was the jumping-off point for homeowner and designer Jenifer Glover's refined master bath, which was part of a 1,000-square-foot addition she and her husband, Norm Brownstein, built onto the back of their 1930s house about seven years ago. "The idea was to create a calming space with a bit of a European feel to it," says Jenifer. Vintage-inspired elements offer a sophisticated aesthetic reminiscent of an old Parisian hotel, while the combination of warm and cool tones enhances the serene look.

Small doses of sparkle – the glass chandelier, nickel faucet and chrome feet on the tub – elevate the luxe factor.

FINISHING TOUCHES Aside from the vintage clawfoot tub (which Jenifer had re-enamelled), elements like the wall-mounted towel warmer and porcelain and nickel faucet lend the ensuite an old-fashioned Parisian vibe. The wedding cake chandelier adds luxury and sparkle. "Those are the special touches, the jewels of the space," says Jenifer. The marble mosaic tile in the shower and water closet (shown at left) complements the grey and taupe chevron-patterned marble floor.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS "Because there is no storage under the vanity, I had to make sure I could get storage in elsewhere," says Jenifer. A small built-in cabinet features a glass-panelled door that allows her to display pretty toiletries, plush towels and other attractive items. "I decided to paint the back of the cabinet black to make the pieces that were in it pop a little more," she says.

DESIGN, J.G. Interiors, jginteriors.com; **ARCHITECTURE,** Spragge & Company Architects; **CONTRACTING,** Diamond Building Developments; Moonshine OC-56 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; Wimborne White 239 **TRIM & DOOR PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **SHOWER WALL TILES,** Saltillo Imports; custom built-in **CABINET,** KGA Kitchens; **WASHSTAND BASE,** mirrored **MEDICINE CABINETS, PULLS,** Restoration Hardware; **COUNTERTOP,** Asia Marbles; **FAUCETS,** Signature Hardware; **STOOL, RUG,** Elte; **FLOOR TILES,** Ciot; **SHOWER & WATER CLOSET FLOOR TILES,** Marble Granite Depot; *Beach Walkers* **ARTWORK** by Gabriella Collier, Art Interiors; **CHANDELIER,** Pottery Barn; **SCONCES,** Circa Lighting; **TOWEL WARMER,** Addison's; fringed **TOWELS, TUB MAT, SOAP,** Ginger's; **DOORKNOBS,** Century Builders Hardware; zebra **DISH,** Jonathan Adler.

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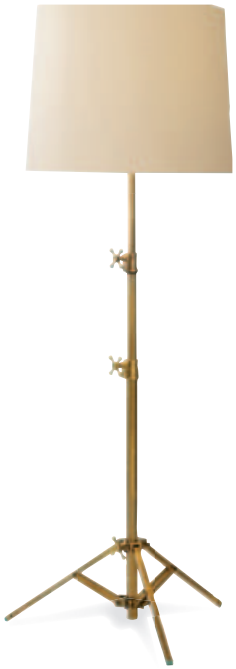

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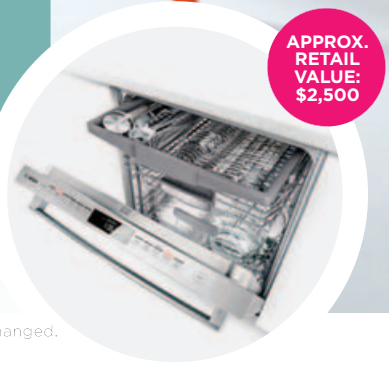

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3

Luxury was a priority when Monica Dyer and her husband, Drew Elliott, created this white and bright master ensuite, part of a project they undertook almost two years ago to expand the third floor of their Victorian rowhouse in Toronto. "We wanted a place we could retreat to," says Monica. To emulate a relaxing yet chic European hotel feel, she opted for a free-standing soaker tub, herringbone-patterned marble floors, tiled wainscotting and vintage-look nickel faucets. Hits of linen, via the Roman shades and sconces, lend softness to the space.

Hammam towels add a touch of worldly elegance to the bathroom.

THE BIGGER, THE BETTER The vanity's Shaker-style doors tie in with built-ins in the couple's master bedroom, and the two-and-a-half-inch-thick marble countertop has a substantial, ultra-luxe look. Wainscotting made of white ceramic subway tiles offers texture and interest. "We put it a little higher up," says Monica. "Ceramic subway tiles are so accessible and affordable and yet offer such high impact." Pivot mirrors framed in nickel complement the space's classic, European vibe.

OLD MEETS NEW Set under the big window, the sculptural cast-iron soaker tub, a contemporary version of an old claw-foot tub, is paired with a traditional nickel faucet. "Everyone was saying, 'Stay away from nickel! Stay away from nickel!' because it tarnishes," says Monica. "But we like the look of that. It gets a nice patina." The glass-enclosed shower enhances the airy feel of the all-white space and keeps sightlines open to the deck and trees beyond.

ARCHITECTURE, Re:Placement Design; **CONTRACTING,** Dennis Contracting; Chantilly Lace OC-65 **WALL & VANITY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **WALL TILES,** Saltillo Imports; custom **VANITY,** JMac Productions; **BATHTUB,** Lowe's; custom **ROMAN SHADES,** Eurofab; **SINK, FAUCET,** Taps Bath Centre; **BATHTUB FAUCET,** Build.com; **FLOOR TILES,** Marble Granite Depot; **MIRRORS, HOOKS, KNOBS,** Restoration Hardware; **SCONCES,** Cocoon Furnishings; hammam **TOWELS,** Putti Fine Furnishings; hammam **HAND TOWEL,** West Elm.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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OCTOBER 2015

PHOTOGRAPHY, ROBIN STUBBERT

AUTUMN PLEASURES

Fall is full of rustic textures and all kinds of other sensory delights. It's a time for enjoying the comforts of home, whether that involves cooking, crafting, cleaning or simply contemplating life from the coziness of your own bed with a hot cup of tea and the latest bestseller at hand.

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL GRAYDON | **STYLING** STACY BEGG

MEMORIES IN THE MAKING

Architectural details and carefully chosen furnishings turn an unremarkable '80s build into a comfortable family home.

Located in a pocket of Toronto lined with character-filled 19th-century dwellings, this 1987-built home stood out from the crowd. "In this neighbourhood, everyone wants a Victorian," says one of the homeowners, "but we were happy to take this house and inject its relatively modern design with timeless personality."

The couple, who has two young sons, was on a Sunday stroll two years ago when they noticed a house for sale. "It was just around the corner from our old place and erected by the same developer," says one of the homeowners. "While we were happy in our semi, this one was fully detached and had a backyard for the boys." Having lived in a similarly built house, they were familiar with the advantages of newer construction. "Sure, a Victorian facade, which is typical to the area, would have been nice," admits one homeowner. "But we knew this place would work better as the boys got bigger, and there'd be none of the major structural surprises that often pop up when renovating an older home."

Their real estate agent clinched the deal for them and, when he learned of their plans to renovate, put them in touch with his makeover dream team: contractor Matthew Creelman and designers Halina Catherine and Melissa Davis. "We knew Halina and Melissa understood our

OPPOSITE & PREVIOUS PAGES In the living room, custom millwork and black bookshelves establish a formal yet welcoming vibe.

DESIGN, Halina Catherine Design, 416-317-8404; Melissa Davis, melissadavis.com; **CONTRACTING,** Mattu Building Specialists; Seapearl OC-19 **WALL PAINT** (throughout, except master bedroom), Benjamin Moore; **SOFA, SCONCES,** Restoration Hardware; **ARMCHAIRS,** Crate and Barrel; **COFFEE TABLE,** Shelter; custom **BOOKSHELVES,** Hardware Interiors Studio; custom **DRAPERY** (throughout), Auropol Creative Window Decor; **FLOORING** (throughout), Grain; **RUG,** West Elm; untitled **ARTWORK** by Melanie Day, Art Interiors.

RIGHT The area between the living room and kitchen is brought to life with a show-stopping acrylic-fronted hutch and sleek armchairs.

Custom **HUTCH,** Hardware Interiors Studio; **ARMCHAIRS,** Shelter; **COFFEE TABLE,** West Elm.

vision right away," says one of the homeowners. "We had instant chemistry." The designers were equally enthusiastic. "The couple wanted a bright, open-concept family home that was laid-back yet sophisticated," says Melissa. "From our first visit, we began to visualize classic elements and architectural details mixed with casual materials like wide-plank wood floors."

Before those plans could be implemented, the 1,870-square-foot space underwent a six-month overhaul, which saw mostly cosmetic changes on the second level and a serious facelift on the main floor. The layout of three compartmentalized rooms was revamped in favour of an open-concept footprint, and the home's back west-facing wall was reimagined with floor-to-ceiling windows and French doors. "We wanted sightlines from the entryway to travel unobstructed to the kitchen's wall of glazing," says Halina. Drawing the eye through to the kitchen reinforced it as the heart of the home. Each item in the room was chosen with real life in mind. "Most families want their everyday routines to take priority," says Melissa. "So this isn't just a kitchen table – it's for homework and dinner parties alike."

The owners couldn't agree more, having dubbed this spot "command central." One of the homeowners explains: "Most discussions, family plans and FaceTime with grandparents and cousins occur around the kitchen table." It's proof that a home isn't just about a date of origin but rather memories in the making.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

ABOVE "By applying moulding to the ceiling, we softened the bare-bones look of the neutral master bedroom," says designer Melissa Davis. The dark navy upholstered bed frame adds a dramatic yet cozy focal point.

Revere Pewter HC-172 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **BED FRAME, PENDANT LIGHT,** Restoration Hardware; custom **NIGHTSTAND,** Hardware Interiors Studio; **BEDDING,** Au Lit Fine Linens; white **TABLE LAMP,** West Elm.

RIGHT The mini-brick Carrara marble backsplash extends to the ceiling and has a textural effect. Glass-fronted cabinets play up the lightness of the kitchen. The designers chose a sleek faucet that suits the young homeowners.

Custom **CABINETRY, CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Somerset Kitchens; Caesarstone **COUNTERTOP,** Costa Marble; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Creekside Tile; **RANGE,** Bloor Dovercourt Appliances; **FAUCET,** Yorkwest Plumbing Supply.

The kitchen's eat-in area was designed for entertaining and family time. "The tufted banquette has formal lines, so we added a simple wooden dining table and chrome-framed chairs to keep the look casual," says designer Halina Catherine. "It's a great spot for dinner parties and everyday living – the table's not too precious for the boys to play Lego on."

Custom **DINING TABLE,** Mattu Building Specialists; custom **BANQUETTE,** Credible Upholstery; **DINING CHAIRS, PENDANT LIGHT,** Restoration Hardware; *Chez Loan* **ARTWORK** by Jean-Paul Espaignet, YellowKorner Art Gallery.

"This isn't just a kitchen table – it's for homework and dinner parties alike."

Homeowner and designer Lidia van Zyl and her dachshund, Sheeba.

TEXT BETH HITCHCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY ROBIN STUBBERT

STYLING CHRISTINE HANLON

Designer Lidia van Zyl may stick to a simple black and white palette, but thanks to a quirky collection of oddities and accessories, her home near Barrie, Ont., is far from boring.

CURIOUS & CURIOUSER

IF YOU WERE ever to drive past designer Lidia van Zyl's house, you might be tempted to pull out a map or consult the car's GPS. With a cedar-shake exterior and dormers peeking out from the roof, the dwelling looks like it belongs on the dunes of Cape Cod instead of a residential street near Barrie, Ont. The feeling is underscored by the four-bedroom home's idyllic surroundings: Lake Simcoe is just across the road, and farmlands stirring with foxes and deer stretch out from the back.

Sure, it all sounds a bit too good to be true. But that's the benefit of building your dream house – and it didn't happen overnight. Lidia and her husband, Leendert, a family doctor, owned the property for three years before the year-long build began in 2013, so Lidia had time to consider her family's needs, which was daunting, she admits. "This is the first time I'd ever designed a home top to bottom for myself, and it's so different from making decisions for clients," she says. At the top of her must-have list: a sprawling space where she, Leendert and their three children, who range in age from eight to 13, could gather as a family.

Lidia's solution was to designate 600 of the home's 4,000 square feet to a great room that contains the kitchen and dining and living areas. But it's not just any great room – this one boasts a 20-foot-high cathedral ceiling bracketed by

The kitchen island is faced with reclaimed barnboard, topped with Calacatta marble and features corbels that echo the footed cabinetry. Two lantern-style pendant lights highlight the 20-foot-high cathedral ceiling, as does a tall vintage ladder.

DESIGN, LVZ Design, lvzdesign.com; **ARCHITECTURAL PLANS,** Custom CADD; **CONTRACTING,** Meridian Design Build; Gray Mist OC-30 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Black 2132-10 **DOOR PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **CABINETRY,** The Loyalist Woodworking Co.; marble **COUNTERTOPS,** Northern Granite Works; stainless steel **COUNTERTOP, RANGE HOOD,** Stainless Outfitters; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Desert Tile; **RANGE,** TA Appliance; **FAUCET,** Bathworks; **STOOLS,** Reemka Imports; fumed-oak hardwood **FLOORING** (throughout), Majestic North Floors; **RUNNER,** Elte; lantern-style **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Camilla House Imports; **KNOBS, CUP PULLS,** Upper Canada Specialty Hardware; white **VASE,** HomeSense.

rustic reclaimed-wood beams. At one end, there's a kitchen with white Shaker-style cabinets and two swinging doors that lead to the laundry room and mud room. The black doors flank a dramatic black range hood, making it even more impactful. "I just can't seem to get away from black," says Lidia with a laugh. "Though I was aiming for an airy, neutral house, these bits of contrast snuck in."

At the other end, in the living area, is an equally stunning focal point: a stone fireplace framed by a rustic wooden mantel. Ever a fan of symmetry,

Fumed-oak flooring laid in a herringbone pattern introduces a European feel to the entryway, as does the wall panelling. "There's no colour here, so the moulding adds architectural interest to the space," says Lidia. A plaid runner, large woven basket and iron chandelier inject a few rustic notes to pare back the formality.

CHAIRS, inlay **BOX, BOOK,** Elte; **RUNNER,** Dash & Albert Rug Company; **CHANDELIER,** Restoration Hardware.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Antique shoe moulds add a decorative wink; Lidia ordered the "eau de toilette" decal on the powder room door as an inside joke about her husband's attempts to say "bathroom" in French; a reclaimed-wood floating countertop contrasts beautifully with the hammered-nickel basin and marble wall tiles; "I bought these before we even broke ground," says Lidia of the kitchen backsplash's matte-finish subway tiles, which pair well with the focal-point inlay of honed-marble Moroccan-style tiles; antique wooden spools are a shapely accent; Lidia introduced a touch of blue to the tablescape; a mix of rustic and refined elements lends the kitchen its unique look; this vintage camera picks up on the home's primary accent colour.

DECAL (on powder room door), Mario Design; herringbone **WALL TILES,** Desert Tile; **BASIN,** O.co; **FAUCETS,** Bathworks; **WALL OVEN, MICROWAVE,** TA Appliance; **END CHAIRS,** HomeSense; **PULLS,** Lee Valley Tools.

Lidia placed two linen-slipcovered sofas on either side of the space. Next, she added texture and extra seating with an upholstered ottoman and two crocheted pouffes. Though the room is serene in its monochromatic scheme, cozy layers, such as a hide rug atop a wool one and a warm throw on the ottoman, invite lounging and conversation – as does Lidia's collection of antiques and curiosities.

Vintage wooden spools and shoe moulds, antique apothecary jars and a column of old hats: These intriguing elements add personality and complete the new home's lived-in look. "I like hanging stuff on the wall that's not typical and has a story," Lidia says of the aesthetic, which she's been tweaking since moving in.

Though designing for herself and her family wasn't easy, she has no regrets about her space-planning choices. "The whole family usually plants themselves in that great room," says Lidia. "And I couldn't be more pleased about it."

In the living area, the black chandelier draws the eye up to the cathedral ceiling. The armchair beside the fireplace has special meaning – it came with the property. "There was a small house on the land and we found this lovely armchair inside, so it seemed only right to refinish it and give it new life," says Lidia.

SOFAS, Restoration Hardware; **POUFFES,** Urban Barn; **RUGS, HORNS** (on fireplace mantel), Elte; floral **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** striped **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Kravet Canada; beige **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC** (with buttons), Fabricut; cream **THROW** (on ottoman), HomeSense.

OPPOSITE "I find it difficult to live with colour," says Lidia of the layered neutrals anchored by hits of black she used throughout the great room, from the living area to the dining space to the kitchen.

DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS, LVZ Design; silver **PITCHER,** Indaba; blue **LANTERNS** (on dining table), HomeSense.

FOR SOURCES,
SEE OUR WORKBOOK

TEXT
CHRISTY WRIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHY
ANGUS FERGUSSON

STYLING
ANN MARIE FAVOT

comforts of HOME

A Toronto couple transforms an outdated cottage into an in-demand rental retreat with a mix of rustic charm and modern conveniences.

"The table is rustic and scratched, and we love it," says homeowner Terry Schacht. It has seven leaves and can expand to accommodate a large gathering. The lack of overhead lighting in the dining area was intentional. "I didn't want wires running all over the beautiful ceiling," she says. "Since the room can get dark, I placed a floor lamp in the corner for a soft glow."

DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS, Creighton House Antiques; **PLATES, BOWLS, WINEGLASSES,** IKEA.

what do you

get when a food and prop stylist turns her exacting attention to detail to a 1930s-era cottage in Ontario's Muskoka region last updated in the '70s? A deliciously cozy space lovingly reimagined to look much like it did when it was first built.

The stylist in question, Terry Schacht, and her husband, avionics mechanic Mark Spiers, had already revamped their Township of Perry, Ont., cottage to rent out when they're not there and, wishing to expand their rental portfolio, were on

the hunt for a second fixer-upper. It was 2008, and the search was short-lived. "We found this cottage on the first day of looking," says Terry. "We'd been in the car all day with our real estate agent, who had a stack of listings for us. The only one that appealed to us was one for a log cottage that happened to be furthest away. We ran out of time and didn't get to see it. When the agent dropped us off, we decided to drive to it ourselves. We fell in love with it the minute we pulled up."

Set in Muskoka's Lake of Bays township, the 2,000-square-foot four-bedroom cottage was a study in bucolic charm on the outside, but its authentic log-and-chink exterior belied the interior's clumsy makeover, which saw many walls and original features covered in concrete, panelling and tile board. The transformation

The open-concept living and dining area exemplifies Terry's passion for the authentic. "I like to leave things as original as possible," she says. "I love the old wood and would never dream of painting over this ceiling."

Artisanal painted **CANOE PADDLES**, Norquay Co.; **LANTERN**, IKEA.

OPPOSITE, LEFT, FROM TOP In the kitchen, Terry chose a tactile pebbled backsplash: "It's actually the same material we used on the bathroom floor – I love its contrast in the kitchen"; Ontario's Lake of Bays in Muskoka; a butcher-block countertop maintains the at-the-cottage vibe, while stainless steel appliances add contemporary flair.

CABINETRY, COUNTERTOP, IKEA; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Weston Tile; **DISHWASHER, SINK,** Lowe's; **FAUCET,** The Home Depot; **RUNNER,** Elte; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Ginger's.

OPPOSITE, RIGHT An antique buffet in a corner of the Muskoka room is styled with cottaging essentials.

OPPOSITE, TOP, FROM LEFT Comfy wicker rockers make the Muskoka room the preferred place for morning coffee, rainy-day games and reading; the dresser in the bedroom has a handsome old-world presence, which suggests it's always been there, even though it was an online find; foraged branches casually deck the dining table.

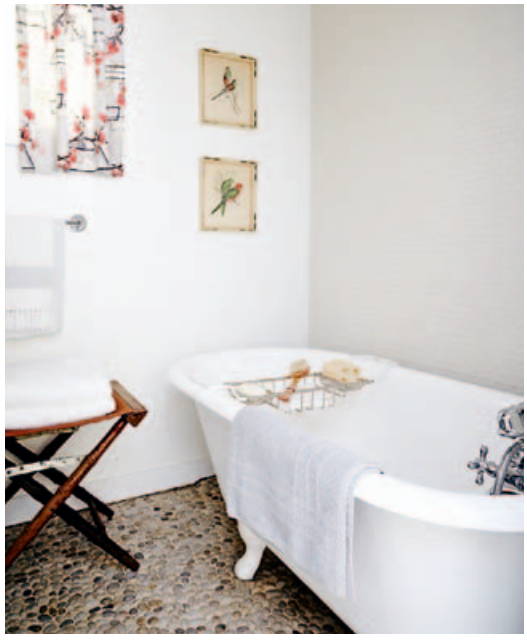
Simply White OC-117 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; enamelled **MUGS,** Norquay Co.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM, FROM LEFT Cozy felted-wool slippers are ideal for padding around the cottage; the bathroom, which originally had lavender fixtures, was updated with a clawfoot tub and pedestal sink; "I'm drawn to historic pieces, and this basket is from the Second World War – apparently it was filled with rations then dropped from planes to soldiers," says Terry.

SLIPPERS, Glerups.

Antique-look items, such as the iron bed frame and lace drapery, imbue the main-floor bedroom with old-fashioned charm. "The curtains were here when we bought the cottage," says Terry, "and I like their vintage feel." The sconce above the bed is a little luxury for late-night bookworms.

"I DECORATED THE INTERIOR TO *look like it's from the 1930s* AND *hasn't changed since.*"



brief was clear: Mark would oversee all the renovations, including building a new kitchen, upgrading the existing bathroom and reclaiming an original bathroom that had been turned into a closet. Terry would concentrate on decorating.

During the year-and-a-half renovation period, the couple devoted days off to restoring the space: gutting the lower level; exposing wooden ceilings and beams; painstakingly restoring all the chinking in the logs; installing tongue-and-groove red pine flooring downstairs; and replacing the den's discount-store wood stove with a cream-coloured cast-iron model that felt appropriate to the cottage's provenance.

Once the bones of the space were updated, Terry worked her decorating magic. "When I'm on set styling, everything has to be perfect, from the food and dishware right down to the garnish on the plate," she says. "I brought this attention to detail to the cottage by decorating the interior to look like it's from the 1930s and hasn't changed since." Terry credits her family's old cottage in Jackson's Point, Ont., as a huge source of inspiration: "It had a lot of wonderful texture like wood and wicker."

With this reference in mind, Terry shopped at antiques markets and thrift stores for most of the decor. "It was crucial to use vintage items, since my biggest pet peeve is cottages that are overtly new and overly done." This one is anything but, perfectly aligning a few modern appurtenances with carefully chosen, time-worn treasures. "Even though this is a rental [gladstonelodge.com], I wanted it to be a special place where other families could create happy memories." And, fitting for the property of a stylist, it's picture-perfect.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHY
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Mushroom & Greens FRITTATA

Here's an ingenious idea for cooking from Kimberley Hasselbrink, the author of *Vibrant Food*: Start with colour and employ flavour and texture to build gorgeous, dynamic dishes. In this excerpt from her bestselling book, we take her advice, showcasing the greens, oranges and reds of autumn fruits and veggies.

MUSHROOM & GREENS FRITTATA

PREP & COOK TIME **45 MINUTES** | SERVES **4 TO 6**

- 8 oz assorted mushrooms, such as chanterelle, cremini and king trumpet
- 10 eggs, beaten
- ¼ cup kefir or buttermilk
- 4 oz soft goat cheese, crumbled
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh thyme, plus more for garnish
- ½ tsp fine sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter, divided
- 1 cup coarsely chopped broccoli di cicco
- 1 cup loosely packed baby chard leaves, plus more for garnish

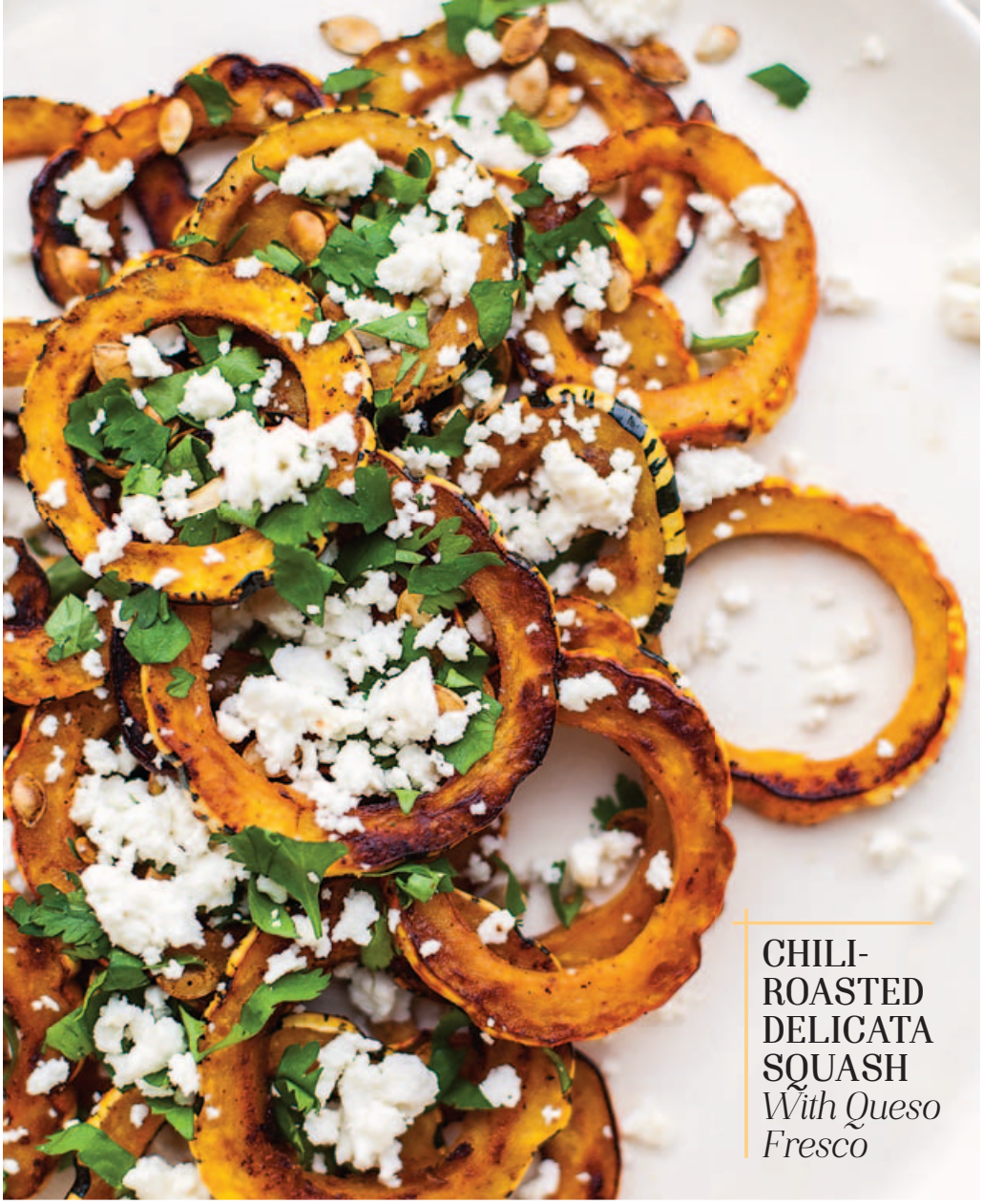
Preheat the oven to 375°F. Clean the mushrooms using as little water as possible, because mushrooms tend to absorb water, which dilutes their flavour. Slice them about ¼" to ½" thick; set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk the eggs with the kefir, goat cheese, thyme, salt and pepper. Set aside.

Warm a 10" cast-iron or oven-safe skillet over medium-low heat. Add 1 tablespoon of the butter. When it is frothy, stir in the mushrooms. Sauté them until soft and cooked through, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove the mushrooms from the pan and set aside. In the same pan, add the remaining 1 tablespoon butter, along with the broccoli di cicco, and sauté. After 2 to 3 minutes, add the baby chard. Stir until the greens are just soft, 1 to 2 minutes more. Add the mushrooms and egg mixture to the pan and stir to combine. Keep the frittata over medium-low heat until the edges begin to firm, 10 to 12 minutes.

Transfer the skillet to the oven to finish cooking, about 10 minutes more, until the eggs are set and golden brown at the edges. Remove the frittata from the oven and set aside to cool for about 5 minutes.

Garnish with a handful of thyme and chopped chard. Serve warm.



CHILI-ROASTED DELICATA SQUASH *With Queso Fresco*

CHILI-ROASTED DELICATA SQUASH WITH QUESO FRESCO

PREP & COOK TIME **45 MINUTES** | SERVES **4**

- 2 delicata squash (about 1½ lbs)
- 3 tbsp plus 1 tsp extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 tbsp maple syrup
- ½ tsp cumin
- ¼ to ½ tsp chipotle chili powder
- ¼ tsp sweet paprika
- ¼ tsp fine sea salt, plus more to taste
- ¼ cup crumbled queso fresco
- 2 tbsp coarsely chopped fresh cilantro

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Slice the squash in half crosswise. Scoop out the seeds and pulp, discarding the pulp. Rinse the seeds and set aside to drain. Slice each squash half into ¼"- to ½"-thick rounds.

In a large mixing bowl, combine 3 tablespoons of the olive oil, the maple syrup, cumin, chipotle chili powder, paprika and salt. Add the squash and toss to thoroughly coat. Arrange the squash in a single layer on a large baking sheet, overlapping the slices slightly if necessary.

On a separate baking sheet, toss the squash seeds with the remaining 1 teaspoon olive oil and a light sprinkle of salt.

Place the squash and seeds in the oven. Roast the squash, turning the slices halfway, until fork-tender, golden brown and caramelized, 20 to 25 minutes. Check on the seeds after 10 minutes and remove from the oven when golden brown.

Place the squash on a large serving dish. Sprinkle the toasted seeds, queso fresco and cilantro over the squash. This dish is best served warm.

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CARNITAS TACOS *With Apple Salsa*

To see more of Kimberley Hasselbrink's inventive recipes, check out Vibrant Food *(Ten Speed Press, $30).*

CARNITAS TACOS WITH APPLE SALSA

PREP & COOK TIME **2 HOURS** | SERVES **6 to 8**

Carnitas

- 2 tsp each: ancho chili powder, chipotle chili powder, cumin and fine sea salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 3 lbs boneless pork shoulder, cut into 3″ pieces
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, quartered
- 4 garlic cloves, smashed
- Juice of 1 orange
- 2 cups water

Apple Salsa

- 1 large sweet-tart red apple, such as Braeburn or Pink Lady, cored and finely diced
- 6 green onions (white and pale green parts only), thinly sliced
- ¼ cup coarsely chopped fresh cilantro, plus more for garnish
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely minced
- ½ tsp fine sea salt
- Juice of 2 limes

- 12 to 16 corn tortillas, warmed
- 1 to 2 cups shredded red cabbage
- 1 cup crumbled queso fresco
- Lime wedges for serving

To make the carnitas, in a large mixing bowl, combine the ancho and chipotle chili powders, cumin, salt and pepper. Toss the pork into the bowl and generously coat with the dry rub.

In a large heavy pot, warm the oil over medium-high heat. Add as many cubes of pork as will fit in a single layer and sear, turning occasionally, until browned on all sides, about 15 minutes. Transfer the browned meat to a bowl and repeat with the remaining pork.

When all the pork is browned, return it to the pot along with the onion, garlic, orange juice and water. Cover and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and cook until the pork is falling-apart tender and cooked through, about 1½ hours.

Using tongs or a large fork, shred the pork. Raise the heat and cook, uncovered, until the liquid reduces and the meat begins to brown and crisp at the edges, 25 to 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, make the salsa. In a mixing bowl, toss together the apple, green onions, cilantro, jalapeño, salt and lime juice; set aside.

To serve, top each warm tortilla with pulled pork, apple salsa, cabbage and queso fresco. Garnish with the additional cilantro and lime wedges on the side.

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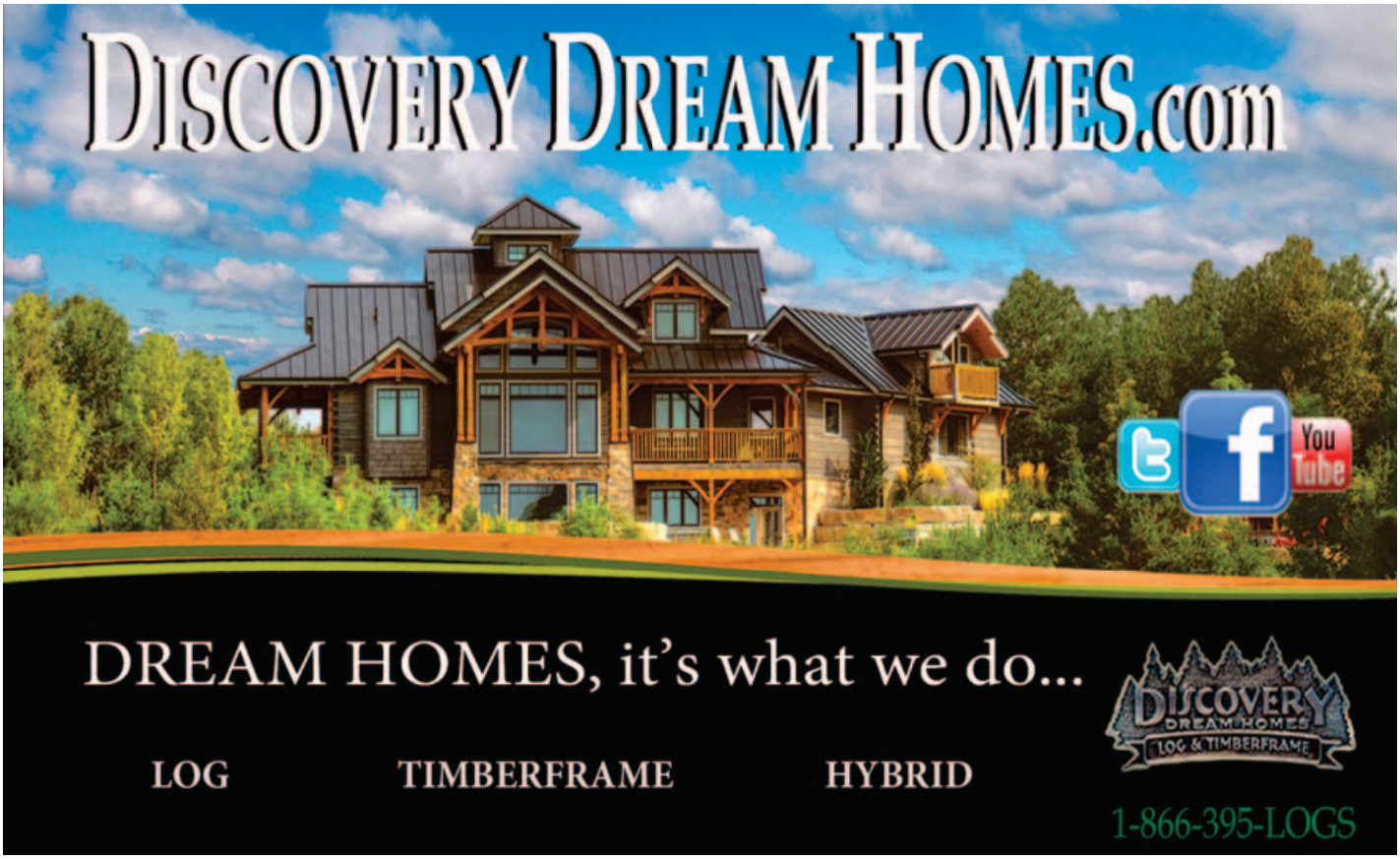

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Rustic meets modern in this master bedroom with bold birch tree wallpaper and a splash of yellow.

PHOTOGRAPHY LISA PETROLE

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The secret to a covetable bathroom? Combine white subway tiles with black fixtures and bright accents.

PHOTOGRAPHY ANGUS FERGUSSON

421 36

A soft muted palette and a mix of subtle accessories bring a serene sophistication to this master ensuite.

PHOTOGRAPHY ROBIN STUBBERT

design pinspiration

We round up our favourite bed and bath images from our Pinterest boards for extra inspiration.

54 6

Daring design choices, such as gold detailing and punchy prints, make for a glam yet restful bedroom.

PHOTOGRAPHY STACEY BRANDFORD

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It's hard not to fall for this contemporary bathroom design that's inspired by the rocky scenery beyond.

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Toss cushions in a variety of textures, patterns and hues have the ability to transform any room.

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